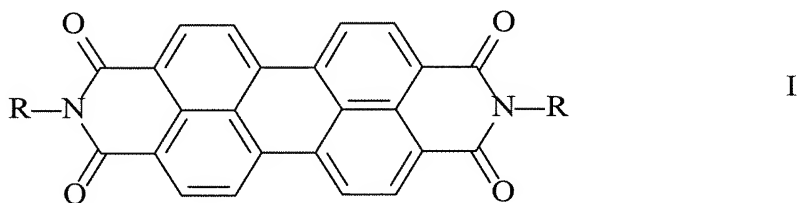


## Abstract

A process for preparing perylene-3,4,9,10-tetracarboxylic diimides of the general formula I



where

comprising

~~R is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>30</sub>-alkyl whose carbon chain may be interrupted by one or more O moieties and/or which may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkyl (which may be substituted by one or more C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl substituents), phenyl or phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl (which may each be substituted by one or more C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-alkyl and/or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy substituents), -OCOR<sup>1</sup>, -N(R<sup>1</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, -SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, -SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>1</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, -CON(R<sup>1</sup>)<sub>2</sub> and -COOR<sup>1</sup>;~~

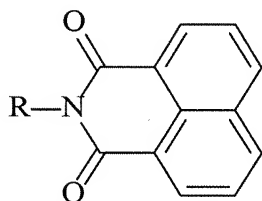
~~C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkyl whose carbon skeleton may be interrupted by one or more moieties selected from the group consisting of O, S and NR<sup>2</sup> and/or which may be substituted by one or more C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl substituents;~~

~~phenyl, phenyl-C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, naphthyl or hetaryl, which may each be substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy, phenylazo, naphthylazo, pyridylazo, pyrimidylazo, cyano, N(R<sup>+</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, CON(R<sup>+</sup>)<sub>2</sub> and COOR<sup>+</sup>;~~

R<sup>+</sup>—~~is C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-cycloalkyl, phenyl or phenyl-C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl;~~

R<sup>2</sup>—~~is C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, phenyl or phenyl-C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl,~~

by dimerizing a naphthalene-1,8-dicarboximide of the formula II



II

~~comprises effecting said dimerizing in a reaction medium consisting essentially of an apolar aprotic organic solvent and an alkali metal base and subsequently reoxidizing the resulting alkali metal salt of the leuco form of the perylene-~~

~~3,4:9,10-tetracarboxylic diimide in the presence of a polar solvent;~~

~~and also preparation of perylene-3,4:9,10-tetracarboxylic dianhydride and naphthalene-1,8-dicarboximides.~~